



ARPR Bulletin

To Members of
THE ACADEMY OF RELIGION AND PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
from Claire G. Walker, 14001 Thunderbird Drive, 4-K
Seal Beach, CA 90740 (562) 493-0355

Volume 9, No. 3

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A Farewell Column

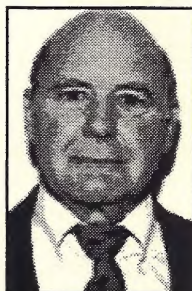
from John F. Miller III

The Academy's new president, Dr. Don Morse, and our retiring Bulletin editor, Dr. Claire Walker, have graciously invited me to write a farewell column. I am most pleased to do so.

First, it has been my great delight to work for the past three years with our former Journal and Bulletin editor, Claire Walker, who is a gem of a person, as all who know her would attest. My conversations and correspondence with her monthly, or more often, were a source of great joy. Likewise, it has been a pleasure to work closely with our Executive Secretary, Boyce Batey. Virtually every decision made with regard to the Academy was made with my consultation and input. With our Vice President, Dr. Grace Crowley, our President Emeritus, Dr. Richard Batzler, our Treasurer, Frank Tribbe, and our new journal editor, Dr. Don Morse, my associations have been cordial and affectionate. So, too, have the friendships which I developed among those members of our Board. I say this to encourage those who have not attended our conferences and thus have not met our officers, board members, and presenters, to do so. As former president and journal editor, Dr. Mary Carman Rose, said: the Academy is a society of "the third kind," one in which people are genuinely nice and committed to the search for knowledge rather than seeking ego gratification and denigrating those with whom they disagree, as often occurs in academic professional societies.

Second, the Academy has distanced itself increasingly from its parent, Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship International, during the years of my presidency. The Board voted no longer to hold our conference, as an appendage to SFFI, on the Sunday evening, Monday, and Tuesday of the weekend when SFFI met. Two years ago we held our meeting in a separate location. This year, however, we organized a concurrent conference with SFFI, which many agree was less than satisfac-

See FAREWELL COLUMN page 2



Editorial

Spirituality

Over the years a mainstay of support for many of us has been the presence and expression of Dr. Dick Batzler. Here are 11 of his "Dynamics and Characteristics of Spirit-Filled Persons."

1. We perceive the entire universe as an integrated and unified whole. Oneness of all. Interaction, interrelation and interdependence of all that exists.

2. Our percepts of spirituality are exclusively and fully attended to. There is great concentration and focus on the sanctity of life.

3. We are more detached from self and do not project our own purposes on others. We see each aspect of reality in its own Being (as an end in itself) and respect that Beingness.

4. Our attitudes are relatively ego-transcending, self-forgetful, and unselfish. More object-centered than ego-centered.

5. Our spiritual experiences are self-validating and self-justifying moments which carry their own intrinsic value with them. They give meaning to life.

6. We see the universe as beautiful, good, desirable, worthwhile and not as evil or undesirable. We accept bad things and events about life and are reconciled to the presence of evil in the world.

7. We emphasize the intrinsic value of Being. Eternal verities, spiritual values and sacredness of all are dominant dynamics.

8. We are more readily reconciled to and accepting of death.

9. The dichotomies, polarities and conflicts in our life tend to be transcended or resolved. We move toward fusion, integration and unity and away from splitting, conflicts and oppositions.

10. We have a tendency toward loss of fear, anxiety, inhibition, of defense and control, of perplexity, confusion, conflict, or delay and restraint.

11. We become more responsible, more active, creative, self-determining.

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Report on Annual Conference 2000

Twenty-nine persons registered with the Academy to attend the joint conference with SFFI at Rosemont College, June 15-18, 2000 on the theme "Frontiers of Consciousness in the New Millennium." This meant that 150 members either chose not to come, or were unable. It could be important to future Academy planning to know which and why.

Further, the 29 who registered saw one another chiefly in the dining hall. How did the "joint" program come to be obscure on Academy events?

Book Review

A review by JRPR's new Book Review Editor, to whom a warm welcome.

SEARCHING FOR ETERNITY by Dr. Don Morse, Eagle Wing Books, Inc., 2000, 428 pages, \$19.95

Although he had a near-death experience in 1983, Don Morse was too busy satisfying his material needs to concern himself with the spiritual implications of his NDE. It was not until he retired from his position as a professor at Temple University that Morse began considering these needs. In "a scientist's spiritual journey to overcome death anxiety," (the subtitle), Morse, who holds graduate degrees in dentistry, endodontics, microbiology, clinical psychology, and clinical nutrition, seems to have explored every possible subject or approach relating to the survival of consciousness beyond bodily death, ranging from Abraham and after-death communication, through such topics as channeling, etheric double, out-of-body experiences, reincarnation, and on to Yoga and Zoroastrianism.

In his 1974 Pulitzer prize-winning book, *The Denial of Death*, cultural anthropologist Ernest Becker stated that basic repression of death is the enemy of mankind. The key to living the unrepressed life and fully enjoying the second half of life, according to Becker is having a sense of immortality. But Becker stops there, not really explaining how one achieves this sense. Morse picks up where Becker left off, in search of the eternal soul. While examining all major religions and many minor ones, Morse finds that it is necessary to go beyond the inductive approach of orthodox religion, i.e. be good, obey the commandments, and you will some day earn eter-

nal bliss, whatever that may be, to the deductive approach of metaphysics and psychical research. That is, first figure out what continuity of the consciousness really means, then apply the lessons to this lifetime.

After relating the Hindu fable concerning how six blind men viewed an elephant, Morse concludes with the statement: "I can't say that I see the entire elephant, but I've given it a try. Considering all that has been found in our spiritual journey through NDEs, OBEs, apparitions, visions, dreams, seances, medium reports, past-life regression, immortality, God, and the universe and evolution, and various religions, organizations, and individual concepts, it is possible to formulate a rational depiction of the afterlife." He goes on to comment that the most important message derived from psychical research is that consciousness remains the same after we shed our earthly shells. There is no sudden enlightenment, no heaven-hell dichotomy. We pass on with the spiritual state we have achieved during our life times, and we continue to evolve spiritually.

Morse's book can significantly assist the beginning or intermediate seeker by pointing him or her to the important avenues of investigation while also providing that seeker with valuable information concerning numerous spiritual, metaphysical, philosophical, religious, and paranormal subjects. The advanced seeker will likely find discussion of topics not previously researched, but he or she will also discover that the book can serve as an encyclopedia of the aforementioned subjects.

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Correspondence

Following is an excerpt from George Kokich's letter which reached us in response to my editorial, page 1 of the June 2000 Bulletin. (Printed here with permission.) —Editor

Claire,

I really enjoyed your thoughtful Editorial (ARPR Bulletin., June 2000) re: your thoughts on the Academy's future. Even though we went through such a proposed gathering of minds in 98-99 to consider Spiritual Frontiers Canada future directions, I passed your timely article to SFC's Management Committee for an update discussion about SFC. For the Academy, however, I can mention one issue where I would like to see major efforts/changes (which I believe would demand related changes in content and approach). In short, although very professional and always high quality, I would propose that the Academy would benefit significantly if it changed the ongoing historical, circular and limiting practice of members talking primarily to themselves; I believe that change in outreach towards a broader client base is a desirable and essential shift to keep the Academy alive and well.

George Kokich, 3 Lavina Crescent
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Farewell Column

From page 1

tory. One of the challenges which the Academy faces is to determine its relation with its parent organization.

Third, in the Academy's June bulletin, Claire Walker quoted cultural historian Jacques Barzun: there comes a time "when the idea of every activity begins to lose its force and its appeal because everything it contains has been worked out...." Has the Academy run its course, have its themes been explored ad nauseam so that they no longer interest our members? The Academy lost members during the years of my presidency. Was it because of lethargy regarding redundant themes and boredom in rehashing old data? Of course, there are always newcomers to the old ideas; but the old-timers may have learned all they need to know. Can the Academy find a new direction, new interests, new subjects to explore? Or have we become too "arthritic" to change?

Finally, let me urge our members to respond, to write me, or president and Journal editor Don Morse, or Bulletin editor Claire Walker, or any on the Board or Executive committee. After all, this is YOUR organization, entrusted to the officers and board, but only entrusted. What is YOUR desire for the direction of your Academy? If, in my final column, I can elicit some response from our members, I will have done well. Please let us know where you stand on Academy-Fellowship issues. What do you wish would be the Academy's next step?

—John

Messages From the Executive Secretary

Boyce Batey

Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship International, our parent organization, has advised us that they're unable to provide library service to members. Since we're unable to offer a service and not provide it, we're removing access to the SFFI library as an Academy membership benefit and adding another benefit: members may obtain books from our journal editor, submit a book review for the journal and keep the book.

...

Call for Papers for our 2001 conference on "COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS" and an announcement of the 2001 Robert Ashby Memorial Award competition on the subject: "IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF REINCARNATION COMPATIBLE WITH CHRISTIANITY"? Please encourage appropriate and interested people to submit a proposal for presentation at the conference and/or a paper in the Ashby competition.

...

Our 26th annual conference will be held on Friday, June 8 through Sunday, June 10, 2001 at Hastings Conference Center in Hartford, Connecticut on the theme "Cosmic Consciousness". I'M PERSONALLY INVITING EACH OF YOU TO SEND TO ME BY OCTOBER 15, 2000 A PROPOSAL FOR A PRESENTATION AND/OR WORKSHOP ON THIS SUBJECT THAT YOU'D LIKE TO PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

...

We welcome two new members to the Board of Trustees — James E. Beichler, Ph.D. and Barbara R. Rommer, M.D.

Dr. Beichler is an Assistant Professor of Physics at Salem-Teikyo University in Salem, West Virginia. He received his Ph.D. in Paraphysics from Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, submitted the winning paper in the 2000 Robert Ashby Memorial Award competition, and is Editor of *YGGDRASIL: The Journal of Paraphysics*.

Dr. Rommer has a practice in Internal Medicine in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is on the Board of Directors of The International Association for Near-Death Studies, founded the South Florida IANDS group, and is author of the book, *Blessing in Disguise, Another Side of the Near-Death Experience*.

If you have access to the Internet, you may like to visit the Academy's Web site - <http://www.lightlink.com/arpr/> - which has 115 hyperlinks to other Web sites on religion, transpersonal psychology, spirituality, mysticism, psychical

Our Membership Building and Fund-Raising campaign is continuing through the end of 2000. Boyce encourages each Academy member to introduce another person to the Academy by invitation or a gift membership ("Each one treat one"). You may send donations to the Academy.

John F. Miller, III, Ph.D., former Academy President, provided full sponsorship (typesetting, printing and mailing) for this issue of the ARPR Bulletin. The Editor and the Board of Trustees appreciate and thank him for his generosity.

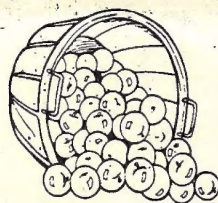
research, near-death experiences, spiritual healing and parapsychology to provide a research resource for Academy members.

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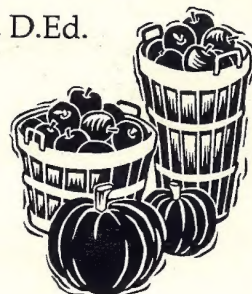


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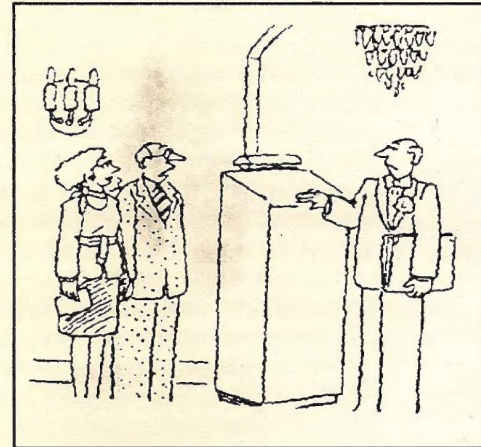


Basketball Star Saved by Angel

The Portland Trail Blazers basketball star, Jermaine O'Neal, has an angel... at least his mother thinks so. He was trapped in his car in a ditch after a truck slammed into him and left. "I was just praying to God I would survive," he said. He was bleeding, couldn't move his legs, and the door wouldn't open. Then he saw a man walking toward the car. "He got me out somehow, set me on the ground and just walked away, I guess. It was the funniest thing. I didn't have a chance to say thank you. Nobody else but me saw him, and when I turned around, he was gone. My mom said the guy was an angel. It makes you wonder!"

[The Good News Network] in Share International

Is this decadence?



Wall Street Journal 8/16/00

"A table where we'll be seen... preferably by a waiter."

Will Good Times Last?

That's the question the G-7 finance ministers recently asked about the US stock market. They fear the economic health of the world may be far too dependent on overvalued US internet stocks. The other six want to know that the US isn't going to make big mistakes and will have a plan if there is a sharp correction. A chief economist with Lehman

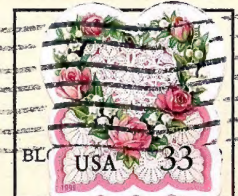
Bros Japan said, "There are some real imbalances in the US economy." Warning signs keep mounting as long-term US interest rates spike, American labor shortages worsen, and world oil prices surge. "You begin to wonder," said a Singapore base economist, "if we're all living in fairyland."

[Los Angeles Times] —Dick Larson, Share International



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ACADEMY'S 2001 CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PAPERS

The Academy of Religion and Psychical Research will hold its 26th annual conference in Hartford, Connecticut on June 8-10, 2001. The conference theme will be:

COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS

This theme honors the 1901 publication of Dr. Richard Maurice Bucke's book, *COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS - A Study in the Evolution of the Human Mind*.

The Academy's Program Committee hereby issues a call for serious, coherent, creative papers that combine aspects of both psychical research and religion, are integrated, systematically presented, and academically significant. Papers may be about field or laboratory research, historical, theoretical, clinical, or methodological issues.

Academic members of the Academy and others qualifying for Academic membership who wish to present papers and/or workshops at the conference are invited to submit 500 word long abstracts of proposed papers or workshops for consideration by the Program Committee.

Papers must be of academic quality and include full citation by footnotes and endnotes of referenced works. Up to 5,000 words of a paper will be included in the Conference Proceedings.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS IS OCTOBER 15, 2000

Send three copies of each abstract, anticipated bibliography of primary sources, an outline of the paper, and biographical data to the Program Committee Chairperson BOYCE BATEY, P.O. BOX 614, BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002-0614 USA.

If it is intended that a paper be presented in absentia, include a statement to this effect; the Program Committee will select an appropriate person to present the paper. If you have questions or wish more information about the abstracts, papers, or conference, write or phone Boyce Batey at (860) 242-4593, bateyb@courant.infi.net.

For information about Academy programs, purposes and membership (\$40 for Academic Members; \$35 for Supporting Members); Subscriptions to the Academy's academic quarterly, *The Journal of Religion and Psychical Research* (available only to libraries for \$20 per annum); obtaining back issues of the journal (\$5 each) and Conference Proceedings (\$12 each), contact Boyce Batey.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPETITION

The Academy of Religion and Psychical Research announces its 18th annual competition for the Robert H. Ashby Memorial Award for the best paper on the subject:

IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF REINCARNATION
COMPATIBLE WITH CHRISTIANITY?

PRIZE: \$500.00

DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2001

Contestants are required to submit an original plus two photocopies of the paper, doublespaced. Anyone may enter, but the paper must be of academic quality, originally written for this competition, and include full citation by footnotes or endnotes of referenced works. Maximum credit will be given to papers that combine and systematically integrate aspects of both religion and psychical research and the interface between them, in their presentation. The Academy's Publications Committee serves as a panel to judge the papers; its decision shall be final. Committee members may compete but won't judge their own paper.

To ensure impartial judging, we ask that contestants not identify themselves, even indirectly, in the text of their papers and not list their own publications in the referenced works. Instead, include them in a separate list that will be withheld from the judges.

Competition papers are to be 3,000 to 5,000 words long, and the Committee reserves the right to disqualify a paper for reasons of length or as being unresponsive to other terms of this announcement.

Submission of an entry implies a grant of first publication rights for a period of two years in favor of *The Journal of Religion and Psychical Research*, regardless of the results of this competition; republication with credit after release in *The Journal of Religion and Psychical Research*, and publication without limitation after two years, respectively, are reserved to the author.

This competition is held in memory of Robert H. Ashby, Director of Education/Research for Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship International.

Please address competition entries and inquiries concerning the competition to:

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